(c) whether all telecom operators have been contributing 5 per cent of their revenue for the last three years for the village telecom project under the Universal Service Fund (USF) meant to finance unremunerative networks; and

(d) if so, the current accumulations in the USF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (A) The private basic service operators have been asked to fulfil their rural telephony obligations by the end of 2003 excluding the categories of villages identified as depopulated villages, villages with population less then 100, Nexalite or insurgency villages and villages to be covered by satellite media in the first phase.

(b) According to the information available, these operators have provided 11632 VPTs as on 30th June, 2003. These include 831 VPTs provided in Punjab as a replacement of MARR VPTs.

(c) Universal Service Fund has not been established so far.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Rolling back of call charges by BSNL/MTNL

1205. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have rolled back the call charges from land line phones to mobile cell phones the monthly rent and other tariff rates after May 1, this year when the rates were abruptly raised; and

(b) if so, the details of the revision in rates and the reasons impelling such revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No Sir. There were no abrupt increase of rates.

In the tariff packages of BSNL and MTNL effective from May, 2003, there was no proposal to increase the montly rental. Certain adjustments/ rationalization of call charges and pulse rates from land line phones to cellular phones were proposed.

(b) These proposals were later revised taking note of public resentment and fellings of the Hon'ble Members of the House. The details of the revisions made by BSNL & MTNL are in the Statement.

Statement

Details of revision made by BSNL/MTNL

BSNL

A. Free-call limit (per month)

	Applicable as on 30.04.2003	Applicable w.e.f. 01.05.2003	After revision
Urban subscribers	125	30	50
Rural subscribers	75	50	75

B. Call duration for local calls from landline to cell phone in a Circle

Applicable as on 30.04.2003		Applicable w.e.f. 01.05.2003		After revision	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
180 sec.	180 sec.	30 sec.	30 sec.	60 sec.*	60 sec.*

* Where point of Interconnect (POI) is working.

MTNL

Free-call limit (per month)

	Applicable as on 30.04.2003	Applicable w.e.f. 01.05.2003	After revision
Urban subscribers	75	30	60

Uniform scam in MTNL

†1206. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether C.B.I. and Vigilance Wing of the Department have submitted their reports after investigations of the whole matter;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.